Recent Ladakh protests demanding statehood

Prelims : *Current events of national and international importance*

Why in News?

Recently, Ladakh People staged a massive protest over the statehood demand set a BJP office on fire, and police fired teargas shells to disperse them.

- **Background** - The issue dates back to 2019, since ***Article 370*** was repealed and the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Act, 2019 was passed.
- The result was the bifurcation of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir into 2 Union Territories - Jammu and Kashmir with a legislature, and Ladakh without a legislature.
- The political and legal status of Ladakh has remained contentious since, with the people of the UT finding themselves under direct central administration.

Demands

- Protestors demanding statehood and the 6th Schedule.
- **Statehood for Ladakh -** Granting Ladakh full democratic and legislative rights.
- **Inclusion of 6th schedule -** Given that over 90% of Ladakh's population belongs to the Scheduled Tribes, there has been a consistent demand to include the region under the Sixth Schedule.
- **Two Lok Sabha seats -** Seeking separate parliamentary representation for the Leh and Kargil districts.
- **Job reservations -** Reserving employment opportunities for local residents.

Quick facts

• **Sixth Schedule -** Under Article 244 of the Indian Constitution provides for the formation of autonomous administrative regions called Autonomous District Councils (ADCs).
• **Autonomous District Councils (ADCs)** – It governs tribal-majority areas in certain northeastern states.
- **Members -** ADCs have up to 30 members with a term of 5 years and can make laws, rules and regulations on land, forest, water, agriculture, village councils, health, sanitation, village- and town-level policing, etc.
Currently, there are 10 ADCs in the North East, with 3 each in Assam, Meghalaya and Mizoram, and one in Tripura.

Reference

The Indian Express | Ladakh Protest

